

THE WHITE CLAY CREEK
WATERSHED

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2000

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the residents of Chester County, PA, for their efforts to preserve the White Clay Creek watershed. The White Clay Creek is an important water resource for people up and down stream. It is used for quality drinking water all the way down to Delaware. In fact, my son and I used to fish for trout there when he was a boy. Visibly, the creek looks much the same today as it did when William Penn first founded Chester County in 1682.

This creek is an important resource and an environmental treasure. My personal desire to see this watershed preserved goes back almost 30 years. Eight years ago, the community of southern Chester County got together to help formulate a plan to preserve this watershed. The result of their hard work is a bill I have introduced, H.R. 3520, which adds the watershed to the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This designation will bring the resources that the Federal Government has to offer, without ceding local control. Townships and boroughs, which historically have controlled development, will retain the power they have always had. This designation will give us another tool to make sure that this important natural and historic resource is not lost to future generations.

I urge this body to move quickly on H.R. 3520 so that it may become law before the end of the year.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOSAIC LAW
CONGREGATION OF SACRAMENTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Mosaic Law Congregation of Sacramento. On February 25–27, 2000, the Mosaic Law Congregation will celebrate its 100th anniversary. As the Congregation members gather to celebrate, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this monumental achievement.

The humble beginnings of the congregation can be traced back to the early twentieth century. A small group of members from B'nai Israel formed Chevre Torat Moshe, or Mosaic Law Fellowship. Today, they have grown to become the oldest conservative synagogue in Sacramento.

On February 27, 1900, Moses Wahrhaftig and seven other families organized the Mosaic Law Fellowship. Mr. Wahrhaftig, a Hebrew scholar, chose the name for the Congregation. In its early years, religious services were held in various private residences or public halls.

Sacramento's rapid growth at the time brought an influx of many traditional Jews from the outlying areas, and the Congregation's membership grew. In 1915, the Mosaic Law Congregation hired Alfred Arndt as its first rabbi, and in 1917, the Congregation pur-

chased its first synagogue at 1418 8th Street in downtown Sacramento.

During the period from the 1920's until the 1940's, the Mosaic Law Congregation underwent several key expansions. The Congregation's first Hebrew school was established under Rabbi Ephrim Brosin. Also during his tenure, the Congregation's Ladies' Society became the Mosaic Law Sisterhood. As expansion continued, the Congregation moved into its next home in 1940 at 23rd and K Street.

The next decade brought about a tumultuous time in the life of the Mosaic Law Congregation. They began to struggle with the question of whether to affiliate with the Orthodox movement or the emerging Conservative movement. Under the leadership of Rabbi Marvin Bornstein, the Congregation finally decided to become a part of the Conservative Movement by joining the United Synagogue of America.

As the years went by, the Mosaic Law Congregation continued to prosper and expand. When it came time for another synagogue, the Congregation purchased a school building at 2300 Sierra Boulevard. Groundbreaking for this new expansion took place in February of 1971.

This new place of worship led to the establishment of a Community School under the Bureau of Jewish Education. Women began to assume synagogue leadership roles as officers and board members. They were also extended pulpit honors for the first time.

The Mosaic Law Congregation now had momentum to expand even further. Membership grew rapidly, and many new families with children filled the Congregation with youthful exuberance. Mosaic Law members served as leaders of the Jewish Federation and other Sacramento communal organizations. Construction of the Sanctuary and the Social Hall began in 1974 and was completed in time for the Congregation's 75th Anniversary Dinner.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of the Mosaic Law Congregation of Sacramento gather to celebrate their centennial anniversary, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding organizations. Throughout its long and storied history, the Mosaic Law Congregation has continued to shine in service to both the Jewish community and the overall community of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing the Congregation continued success in all its future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING NEWTON
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Newton Memorial Hospital in Newton, New Jersey, on the completion of an ambitious and much needed \$10 million expansion project. The newly expanded facilities—including a new operating room, expanded outpatient facilities and upgraded cardiac rehabilitation facilities—will allow this excellent health care facility to continue its long tradition of offering Sussex County residents advanced medical treatment in their own community.

Despite the unfortunate trend in health care today toward downsizing and consolidation,

Newton Memorial Hospital is expanding. In doing so, it is realigning more than its bricks and mortar—it is adopting a new philosophy of being "health oriented" rather than "disease oriented." With this expansion, Newton has renewed its commitment to providing patients with excellent care and a continuous system of health resources.

These advances come under the outstanding leadership of Chairman E. Jane Brown and President Dennis Collette. These two dedicated individuals possess a commitment to quality of patient care and community service that sets the standard for the entire staff. Special recognition should also go to the Newton Memorial Hospital Foundation, whose fund-raising efforts made the expansion possible.

Newton Memorial Hospital traces its origins to 1926, when local resident Thomas E. Murray bequeathed a portion of his estate to "the establishment in Newton of a hospital that would accept persons of all creeds and religious denominations and provide equal privileges and accommodations for all." Mr. Murray's gift and the proceeds of a \$500,000 fund-raising campaign allowed the Newton Hospital Association to open the original 40-bed hospital in 1932.

Rapid increases in the use of the hospital led to repeated expansions over the decades, bringing the hospital to its current size of 165 beds. Today, Newton Memorial is a state-of-the-art medical center providing inpatient and outpatient services to more than 140,000 residents of Sussex and northern Warren counties. With more than 150 physicians and 800 employees, it treats nearly 10,000 patients a year and its maternity ward delivers more than 1,000 babies.

The hospital this week marks the completion of the final phase of its latest expansion, a three-phase program conducted over the past year. Phase III included the construction of a fourth operating room and expansion of the three existing operating rooms. The earlier work included 18 new ambulatory surgical units and an upgrade of cardiac rehabilitation facilities.

I have always tried to reflect the priorities of my constituents. We in America have always put health and safety first. Here, on this occasion, we see that principle in action. Mr. Speaker, a local hospital is one of the most important and fundamental essential services a community offers, as vital as a police or fire department of infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads. Newton Memorial Hospital has gone far beyond providing its patients with "basic" services. It is a first-class medical center where area residents can rest assured they will receive the finest medical treatment available.

Our nation has always set the highest priority on the most advanced medical care in the world. Newton Memorial is maintaining its position as one of the fundamental foundations of that health care system.